

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-12: (canceled).

13. (currently amended): ~~Process~~ A process for the construction of a segment of an open-air work by prefabricated structural members of reinforced concrete, comprising the steps of:

arranging a first and a second prefabricated structural members, each of which includes an upright portion and at least a cover portion connected to the upright portion,

installing the first structural member by resting a free end of its upright portion on a respective foundation portion,

installing the second structural member by resting a free end of its upright portion on a respective foundation portion, in such a manner that the two structural members are arranged symmetrically so that the free ends of the cover portions thereof are arranged mutually opposite and in substantial contact to each other,

both said structural members being so shaped that the cover portions thereof define respective elongated cavities which are open upwards and are axially open at their free ends, and extend substantially on the overall length of said cover portions, said cavities of the two structural members being arranged, during the installation step, so that they are substantially aligned in order to constitute a continuous elongated channel open upwards wherein a casting is

executed during the work in order to make a continuous beam within said elongated channel, said beam being superimposed to both the structural members and fastened to them.

14. (currently amended): ~~Process~~The process according to claim 13, wherein each structural member is a prefabricated member which includes a plurality of reinforced concrete bodies connected to each other by means of main reinforcing rods projecting between adjacent reinforced concrete bodies, each structural member being adapted to be articulated as a result of the bending of the main reinforcing rods, and

wherein the step of installing the structural members comprises the bending of the main reinforcing rods until both the structural members assume a substantially overturned-L configuration.

15. (currently amended): ~~Process~~The process according to claim 13, further comprising the step of inserting a rectilinear reinforcement constituted by auxiliary reinforcing rods in the channel defined by said elongated cavities of the cover portions, before the casting for forming the beam superimposed to the two structural members is executed during the work.

16. (currently amended): ~~Process~~The process according to claim 13, further comprising the step of inserting reinforcing rods transversely to the axis of the work between contiguous segments of the work, and reinforcing rods parallel to the axis of the work in proximity of the free ends of the cover portions of the structural members and in correspondence of spaces defined between adjacent bodies of the structural members, and the phase of making

simultaneously during the work a plurality of beams superimposed to respective segments of the work, by means of a single concrete casting, so that the structural members of each segment and a plurality of contiguous segments of the work are connected to each other.

17. (currently amended): ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 16,
wherein each structural member has an appendage defined at the free end of its upright portion by a cylindrical surface, and wherein the step of installing each structural member comprises the operation of forming, on the respective foundation portion, a cylindrical seat corresponding to said appendage by means of a concrete casting executed during the work between the structural member and the respective foundation portion, so that a static hinge for the articulation of the structural member with respect to the foundation portion is made, a packing of anti-friction material being preferably interposed between said appendage and said cylindrical seat.

18. (currently amended): ~~Prefabricated~~ A prefabricated structural member for manufacturing a segment of an open-air work, comprising:
an upright portion for resting the structural member on a foundation portion, and
at least a cover portion connected to the upright portion, said cover portion defining an elongated cavity which is open upwards and is axially open at its free end opposite to the upright portion, and extends substantially on the overall length of the cover portion, said cavity receiving a portion of a continuous beam made by means of a casting executed during the work in order to be superimposed to a pair of structural members arranged symmetrically

opposed and in substantial contact to each other at the free ends of their cover portions, in order to fasten to each other the cover portions of said structural members.

19. (previously presented): A structural member according to claim 18, further comprising a plurality of prefabricated bodies of reinforced concrete, which are connected to each other by means of main reinforcing rods projecting between adjacent reinforced concrete bodies, in such a manner that the structural member can be articulated as a result of the bending of the main reinforcing rods in correspondence of zones between adjacent reinforced concrete bodies.

20. (currently amended): ~~Structural~~ A structural member according to claim 19, wherein said reinforced concrete bodies include a first rectilinear end body defining an upright portion, an intermediate body defining a slanted portion in the condition installed of the structural member, and a second rectilinear end, body defining a bracket portion, said bracket portion having a substantially U shaped cross-sectional section which defines a longitudinal channel which open upwards, the free end of which, directed opposite to said intermediate body, being axially open.

21. (currently amended): A structural ~~Structural~~ member according to claim 20, wherein said longitudinal channel is delimited sideways by tapered sidewalls having a height which decreases towards the free end of the bracket portion.

22. (currently amended): Structural member according to claim 21, wherein secondary reinforcing rods extend from said tapered sidewalls.

23. (currently amended): A structural ~~Structural~~-member according to claim 22, further comprising adjustable extension bearing members at the free end of the bracket portion, in order to allow to change the distance thereof from another structural member arranged symmetrically and the respective opposite bracket portion.

24. (currently amended): A structural ~~Structural~~-member according to claim 22, wherein said upright portion has an appendage at the free end, which defines a convex cylindrical surface for resting in a seat of corresponding shape manufactured during the work on a foundation portion in order to rest the structural member, a packing of antifriction material being interposed between said appendage and said corresponding seat.